



**ACTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

Town Hall  
Acton, MA 01720

Thomas Hopkins, Director  
Architectural Access Board  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1310  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

June 3, 2011

Dear Thomas and the AAB,

We cannot completely support the Application for Variance requesting a time variance for Exchange Hall, 2 School Street, Acton.

As you are aware, the time variances are requested for complete access to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, balcony and attic, doors and doorways, stairs, elevators, public toilet rooms and signage.

We feel that a time variance is reasonable to complete access from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. However, we can not support the installation of a LULA. A full elevator is the most suitable choice. A LULA is primarily meant to be handicapped accessible, and there may be only room for a single wheelchair and a standing passenger. It has literally a "limited application". Our concern is that a LULA would be used for transporting cargo, catering supplies and non-handicapped people beyond the 2 person-capacity. An elevator would provide accessibility and flexibility in use and the use of the building as it was originally intended, such as public dances, private functions, and town meetings.

In retrospect, the 2008 Award Letter from the Acton Community Preservation Committee regarding funding for renovations of Exchange Hall allowed the Town of Acton privileges to use of the building for town meetings. (Refer to attached document: Re: 2008 CPA Funding-Exchange Hall Restoration, page 2, paragraph c) This further supports the installation of an elevator for complete access from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> floors.

In terms of the bathrooms, we can not support a time variance. Upon applying for a building permit the owner has know that the bathrooms must be brought into compliance. He has not proven an acceptable reason for this variance or a plausible solution.

In summary, we support a time variance for the installation of an elevator, not a LULA, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. For the bathrooms, we do not support a time variance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Viola, Secretary, Acton Commission on Disability